

Pesticide Incident Reporting and Tracking Review Panel

PIRT MEETING SUMMARY

SEPTEMBER 15, 2005

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

7211 CLEANWATER LANE, BLDG 15, TUMWATER WASHINGTON

PANEL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Maryanne Guichard, Chair	Department of Health (DOH)	(360) 236-3391
Lucy Harter, Coordinator	Department of Health	(360) 236-3356
Allan Felsot	Washington State University (WSU)	(509) 372-7365
Matthew Keifer	University of Washington (UW)	(206) 616-1452
Alice Larson	General Public	(206) 463-9000
Maria Victoria Peeler	Department of Ecology	(360) 407-6704
Karen Ripley	Department of Natural Resources (DNR)	(360) 902-1691
William Robertson	Washington Poison Center (WPC)	(206) 517-2356
Dorothy Tibbetts	Department of Health	(360) 236-3361
Gabrielle Toutonghi	Department of Labor and Industries (L&I)	(360) 902-5478
Ann Wick	Department of Agriculture (WSDA)	(360) 902-2051

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Steven Gilbert	Practicing Toxicologist	(206) 527-0926
Vacant	Department of Fish & Wildlife	

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Heather Hansen	Friends of Farms and Forests	(360) 705-2040
Jim Hazan	Washington State Horticultural Assn.	

PIRT Review Panel Activities

Maryanne Guichard called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. The meeting agenda was approved. The August 18, 2005 meeting minutes were approved as distributed.

2005 Action Recommendations

Action Recommendation 6: PIRT will continue to compile data related to drift and report on member agency's drift reduction efforts. PIRT will explore the feasibility of organizing a Washington Symposium on Drift. See the WSDA Agency Report below for their activities on this action recommendation.

PIRT Annual Reports

The 2004 PIRT Annual Report has been published and is being distributed. The full report is posted on the PIRT web page (<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/PIRT.HTM>).

Preparation for the 2005 PIRT Annual Report is on target for publication by January 1, 2006. Agencies must submit their pesticide data before the end of September.

Questions Directed to WSDA by Panel Member

WSDA responded to two questions from Alice Larson regarding comments made at the Pesticide Advisory Board meeting in June.

Question: Cliff Weed reported on a proposal to change the regulations on wording for pesticides considered for home and garden use to “exempt more home and garden-type products from dealer licensing and record keeping requirements”. **Response:** Ann Wick responded that they are looking at changing the WAC wording that states “pesticides are classified as home and garden when the label states that they are SOLELY for home and garden use” to “PRIMARILY for home and garden use”. Classification would be done by registration staff on a case by case basis and would affect licensing and record keeping requirements for dealers.

Question: Ted Maxwell reported on a move to amend the fertilizer and pesticide secondary containment rules to not require inspection for air gaps when installed, altered, relocated as an annual inspection requirement. **Response:** Ann Wick responded that they have withdrawn the proposed rule revision.

Proposed Revision of PIRT RCW

A draft proposal for revisions to the RCW governing PIRT activities (*RCW 70.104.080-100 Pesticide Panel*) had been distributed at the August PIRT meeting. The panel discussed several of the proposed revisions. Members were asked to send additional recommendations to Ann Wick, in writing, two weeks prior to the November 17, 2005 PIRT meeting. The panel would especially like additional comments regarding the role of the environmental agencies on the PIRT Panel and if pesticide-related chronic illness reporting should be included.

Science Corner

Karen Ripley led a discussion on the *Journal of the American Medical Association* paper “Acute Illnesses Associated with Pesticide Exposure at Schools”. DOH is one of the agencies that provided pesticide-related data on school exposures for the paper.

Presentations

ChE Monitoring Scientific Committee Final Report - 2004

Matt Keifer compared the preliminary results of ChE monitoring for 2005 to the results from 2004. The number of participants in 2005 was down somewhat from 2004 but the rate for persons getting follow-up was up 30%. Improvements in the ChE monitoring program in 2005 included 1) lab baselines were done faster (from 24 days to 1 or 2 days), 2) L&I notifications of depressions went from 7 days to 3, and 3) the time between the notice of depression to investigation went from 35 days to 9. The 2005 results will be discussed at the next stakeholder meeting, October 7, 2005, at the University of Washington.

Report on Other States’ Pesticide Advisory Boards

Dorothy Tibbetts described an informal survey conducted on pesticide advisory committees used by states participating in the Sentinel Event Notification System for Occupational Risk (SENSOR) program. Of the 11 states that responded to the survey, six, including Washington State, have mandated boards or committees with multi-agency participation. The committees for the five other states are described below:

- California's committee provides guidance of regulatory development and public policy to reduce risks from pesticide use.
- Oregon has a mandated multi-agency clearinghouse for pesticide information and a coordinating point for investigation.
- Florida has a multi-agency and stakeholder review council. The health department reports its pesticide data three times per year and participates in pesticide stakeholder and advocacy groups.
- Texas has a regional committee comprised of regulatory, health, academia, industry, and worker representatives. They provide a forum for pesticide exposure information and solutions to pesticide-related problems in the community.
- New Mexico has an environmental health risk assessment workgroup that focuses on integrated pest management. The group is comprised of physicians and environmental, occupational, and epidemiological programs within the health department.

PIRT Panel Coordination

Dorothy led a discussion on strategies for coordinating the business of the PIRT Panel including: 1) monitoring PIRT Panel activities, 2) providing facilitation for effective PIRT Panel meetings and 3) producing the annual PIRT Report to the legislature. The Panel discussed using Robert's Rules of Order or consensus for making decisions. Panel members were asked to review the strategies and provide feedback to Dorothy by September 26, 2005.

Agency Updates

Agriculture

WSDA has received input from Carol Ramsey on the drift prevention symposium and field day. She is planning a hands-on demonstration day later this winter or early spring and a symposium later to build on experiences from the field day. Carol is getting together a planning committee for the field day and symposium agenda.

WSDA has met with L&I about transfer of funds for the farmworker education program. WSDA will be sending a budget and work plan to L&I and L&I is setting up the fund distribution process. WSDA met with an advisory committee to discuss the best use of the funds. The committee advised WSDA to continue and expand current efforts especially in hands-on field education. WSDA is planning on additional part time help, assisting WSU and some equipment purchases. The current funding is for 2 years.

WSDA has filed a CR 102 for a possible notification process when pesticides are applied by air, airblast equipment, over head chemigation near schools, hospitals, nursing homes and adult and child day care centers. Hearings will be in November in Wenatchee, Yakima and Olympia.

Health

The House Commerce and Labor Committee held meetings and a tour in the Yakima area to look at work place safety in agricultural operations. Tour activities were organized by farmworker advocates and grower representatives. DOH provided a briefing sheet for tour participants to highlight pesticide illness surveillance activities and current issues, and followed up after the tour by sending the PIRT report to members of this committee.

Labor and Industries

Worker participation in Cholinesterase monitoring for 2005 is down from 2004. Cholinesterase monitoring for the time period 1/1/2005 to 09/06/2005:

- 59 workers with at least one alert compared to 122 in 2004
- 10 workers with alert at the work removal level
- 617 workers with at least one follow up compared 655 in 2004.

WPC

Bill Robertson plans to attend the annual American Association of Poison Control Centers meeting in Orlando, Florida. WPC is collaborating with Oregon Poison Control Center to integrate their filing systems to enable easy cross-over for disaster planning. Work is ongoing between WPC and DOH on the reporting of non-pesticide-related calls to DOH.

Future Meetings

Location of Future Meetings

PIRT meets on the third Thursday of each month. All Seattle meetings will be held at the State Public Health Lab, 1601 NE 150th Street, Room S4. The November meeting in the Olympia area will be at the Department of Health, 101 Israel Road SE, Town Center East, Building 1, Room 232, Tumwater.

October 20, 2005 – Seattle Public Health Lab

November 17, 2005 – Olympia – DOH Town Center East, Building 1, Room 232

December – No meeting

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.